

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1-88, 161-323, or 762-965 of SEQ ID NO:2.

25. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 1-88 of SEQ ID NO:2.

26. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 161-323 of SEQ ID NO:2.

27. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 762-965 of SEQ ID NO:2.

28. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising ~~The nucleic acid of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide comprises~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

29. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 28 24, wherein the polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

30. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide that binds to a caspase and comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% ~~85%~~ identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the percent identity is determined using the ALIGN program in the GCG software package, using a PAM120 weight residue table, a gap length penalty of 12, and a gap penalty of 4.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 30, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 98% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

33. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 30, wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 1-88 of SEQ ID NO:2.

34. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 30, wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 161-323 of SEQ ID NO:2.

35. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 30, wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 762-965 of SEQ ID NO:2.

36. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide that induces apoptosis and comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% ~~85%~~ identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the percent identity is determined using the ALIGN program in the GCG software package, using a PAM120 weight residue table, a gap length penalty of 12, and a gap penalty of 4.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 36, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 98% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

39. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 36, wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 1-88 of SEQ ID NO:2.

40. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 36, wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 161-323 of SEQ ID NO:2.

41. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 36, wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 762-965 of SEQ ID NO:2.

42-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid that comprises at least 650 nucleotides and hybridizes to a nucleic acid consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or the complement thereof under conditions of hybridization at 45°C in 6.0 X SSC followed by washing in 0.2 X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide that binds to a caspase or induces apoptosis.

46. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 45, wherein the nucleic acid comprises at least 1000 nucleotides.

47. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 46, wherein the nucleic acid comprises at least 1600 nucleotides.

48. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 47, wherein the nucleic acid comprises at least 2100 nucleotides.

49. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 45, wherein the ~~nucleic acid~~ comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide that binds to a caspase.

50. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 45, wherein the ~~nucleic acid~~ comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide that induces apoptosis.

51. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that is at least 95% ~~85%~~ identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the percent identity is determined using the NBLAST program with a score of 100 and a word length of 12, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide that binds to a caspase or induces apoptosis.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 51 ~~52~~, wherein the nucleotide sequence is at least 98% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

54. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 51 ~~50~~, wherein the ~~nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide that binds to a caspase.~~

55. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 51 ~~50~~, wherein the ~~nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide that induces apoptosis.~~

56. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

57. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 56, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

58-61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 24 ~~23~~, further comprising a sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

63. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 24 ~~23~~.
64. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 63, wherein the vector comprises nucleic acid sequences which regulate expression of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid.
65. (Previously Presented) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 64.
66. (Previously Presented) The host cell of claim 65, which is a mammalian host cell.
67. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing the host cell of claim 65 under conditions in which the nucleic acid is expressed.
68. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising the nucleic acid of claim 24 or a complement thereof ~~a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to the SEQ ID NO:3 under conditions of hybridization at 45°C in 6.0 X SSC followed by washing in 0.2 X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C, and~~ instructions for use.